



Bridger Bugler

F O R T B R I D G E R S T A T E H I S T O R I C S I T E

Superintendent's Desk



Fort Bridger State
Historic Site
Superintendent
Linley Mayer

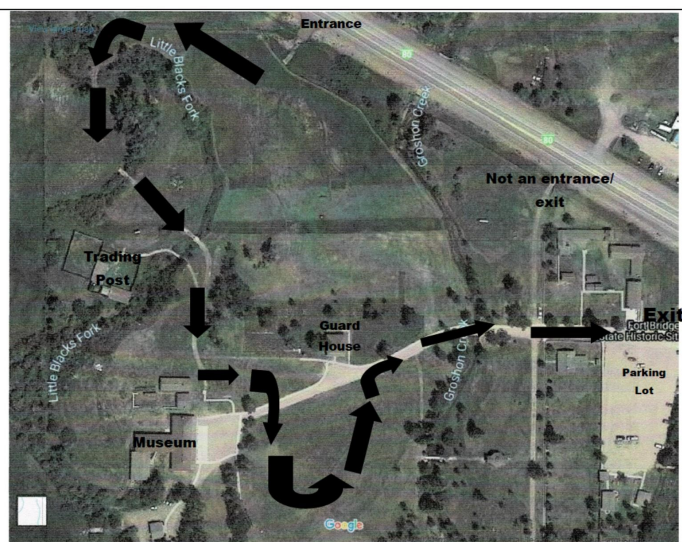
The bugle at the New Guardhouse is once again sounding the call that we are open 9am-5pm, seven days a week!

We were very excited to open up for our summer season on May 30th and while it may not always feel like summer with the snow and cold temperatures from time to time, it is summer nonetheless. It is not the typical summer we were expecting this year, but we have enjoyed the challenges of innovation like with the Fourth of July Kids Extreme event.

Instead of the games we normally provide on the Fourth of July, we are presenting a Drive-Thru History. There will be mini-skits and exhibit-like scenes for you to see as you drive along a predetermined route (See below). You will also be given a scavenger hunt so that you can be on the lookout for certain items and it will have questions for you to ponder. We hope that these modifications will still make for a fun celebration while keeping everyone safe. Take a look at the Calendar section to see what other scheduled events will still take place this summer.

We were not idle while we were closed. You may have seen our posts and activities on our social media pages and you will see fresh landscaping, paint, and more when you visit us. I am very grateful to our wonderful team here at the fort and I thank them for all of their hard work and dedication.

Keep your eyes and ears open on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and the fort's website to discover the latest news and all that we will have to offer. To receive a mailed or emailed copy of this newsletter stop by the fort (after we are open again), call, or email me at linley.mayer@wyo.gov.



Fourth of July Drive-thru route

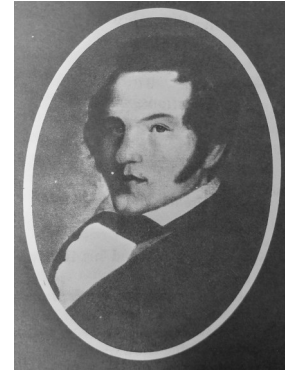
A POINT IN TIME

BY: MARTIN LAMMERS

In keeping with the article written for the previous “Bridger Bugler” we’ll return to the narrative of the English-born traveler, William Kelly. If you recall, the last installment made mention of Fort Bridger and James Bridger as Kelly found them in 1849. This time, we’ll see what’s said about Bridger’s partner, Louis Vasquez – whom Kelly met first, and well before arriving at Fort Bridger.

One day, while on the Sweetwater river still east of South Pass, and already looking for a camp spot with good grass and water, Kelly sent scouts ahead to find a good camping area. Later that same day the scouts returned with news of having:

“found water, ... and they also found ... beside the stream, an immense Indian encampment, surrounded with a multitude of horses, so large that they questioned the prudence of proceeding.”



Louis Vasquez

As it was now rather late in the day, and as it was considered impractical to make camp at their present location, William Kelly decided to trek further up the Sweetwater, make camp along the river, and hope the Natives were friendly. Kelly, and those traveling with him, had some doubt as they knew they were in Crow Indian territory, and the Crow rarely were welcoming to Euro-Americans.

Kelly and his fellow travelers, made it to their proposed camping area and began to settle-in along the Sweetwater opposite to the Native camp. What happened next was one of the most fortunate occurrences in William Kelly’s entire trip, for:

“... as we were drawing up into corral, a white man, habited in civilised (sic) costume, approached, riding over the stream, shouting loudly but unintelligibly, which caused me to go down to ascertain his meaning; when, after saluting me politely, he introduced himself as M. Vasquez, of Fort Bridger.

He told me we had better cross into the good pasture, as there was no danger to be apprehended, for though still in the Crow country, the tribe on the other side were the Shoshonee, or Snake Indians, a most peaceable... people, who were now on their way to their own country, after wintering amidst their connexions (sic). I did not therefore hesitate, and M. Vasquez had a good site fixed on for our camp when we got over....”

As with most of the older trappers and traders still in the Rocky Mountain west at that time, Louis Vasquez turned out to be a gracious and accommodating host. Kelly’s fortune continued, because:

“A lot of us spent the evening in M. Vasquez’ quarters, who gave us minute details of the route to Fort Bridger, as by his advice we took that line to Salt Lake in preference to the Fort Hall, or northern route. He is a Frenchman, the partner of Mr. Bridger, in the fort, or trading-post, which they established many years since, making a large fortune, in bartering their baubles for skins and valuable furs.... He congratulated us on getting through the Crows unscathed, even with our full number, but designated it sheer madness to have attempted it only four strong.”

All quotes are from: “An excursion to California over the prairie, Rocky mountains, and great Sierra Nevada. With a stroll through the diggings and ranches of that country” by William Kelly

A Point in Time Continued

The question now rising is: 'why was Vasquez in this area in the first place?' The 'reason why' sheds light on a common, but little known aspect of the western emigrant trade. According to William Kelly, Louis Vazquez met the Shoshone by accident, but was really there:

"... on a speculation with a number of horses, hoping to find good customers in the emigrants, who he foresaw would stand in need of recruiting their teams after one thousand miles travel, and I have no doubt he made a good thing of it."

William Kelly, together with some of his traveling companions, exchanged a few of their horses and the following day continued their journey west-in company with Shoshone encampment. But that is another story.

All quotes are from: "*An excursion to California over the prairie, Rocky mountains, and great Sierra Nevada. With a stroll through the diggings and ranches of that country*" by William Kelly

Aunt Agony's Advice

Advice for men and women in the Victorian era (1837-1901) taken from *The American Frugal Housewife*.

As I have been asked about household remedies and frugal housekeeping, I have included some simple remedies and some common information.



- Attend to all mending in your house.
- Feathers should be thoroughly dried before they are used.
- A warming pan of coals, held over varnished furniture will remove white spots.
- New England rum, used constantly to wash hair, helps to keep the hair clean and free from disease.
- Brandy is good to strengthen hair at it's roots.
- Honey and milk is very good for worms.
- Nothing is better than earwax to prevent painful effects resulting from a wound by nail or skewer, also it's a successful remedy for cracked lips.
- Boiled potatoes will cleanse your hands as well as soap while keeping your skin soft and healthy.
- A good quantity of old cheese will help if distressed by the partaking of too much fruit or distressed with any kind of food.

The economy of housekeeping is simply the gathering of fragments, so that nothing is lost, whether it be time or materials. The above information is of a common kind, but is such that the majority of young housekeepers do not possess, until now.

Good luck, my dear readers in your housekeeping adventures.

Sincerely,
Aunt Agony

Child, Mrs. *The American Frugal Housewife*. California: Bluewood Books, 1994.

Then and Now

The Log Officer's Quarter (LOQ) was the first permanent building constructed by the military for human occupation in 1858 and is the oldest remaining building at the Fort Bridger State Historic Site.

The LOQ was first used by officers and their families but by the 1880s served as a bachelor officer's quarters. The quarters contains two private bedrooms and parlors, a maid's bedroom, and a shared dining room and kitchen. The rear of the quarters was added in 1887 and the building was restored by Wyoming State Parks in 1963 and 1964.

John "Mac" MacLaughlin, a soldier who had been in the army at Fort Bridger, lived in the building after the army abandoned the fort in 1890. Discover more information about Mac when you visit the LOQ this summer.

Troop K, 1st Cavalry and Companies E and H, 6th infantry, at first under the command of Major Hoffman and later by Col. E. A. S. Canby built the six officer quarters spaced 33 feet apart. This log and frame building was constructed of timber twenty-five miles south of today's historic site from the Northern Foot Hills of the Uinta Mountains. Stone for the fireplaces and chimneys and limestone for the plaster and mortar were quarried two miles west of today's historic site. Sand and gravel came from the dry gulches in the area.

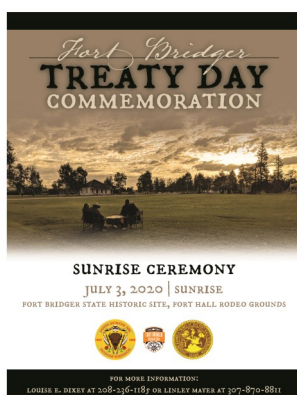


Meet Joshua Camp

Joshua Camp is the new Trades Specialist at the Fort Bridger State Historic Site. Josh is a second generation living history interpreter. He and his family moved to the valley from Wellsville, Utah where he worked at the American West Heritage Center. He has experience in preservation, grounds and maintenance, living history, and interpretation. We are very pleased to have Josh on our team!



Calendar



July

July 3– Treaty Day

Sunrise (5:54 am), arrive about 5:30 or shortly after, Free Admission

Sunrise ceremony to commemorate the 1868 Treaty. The ceremony will be conducted by the Eastern Shoshone at Fort Bridger State Historic Site and the Shoshone-Bannock at the Fort Hall Rodeo Grounds.

July

July 4– Kids Extreme

Right after the parade-2:30 pm, Free Admission

Drive-thru the fort to see the mini-skits, exhibit-like scenes, and a scavenger hunt.

You may walk on site before or after but not during our main drive-thru attraction. Please be advised that if we reach 250 visitors and/or social distancing is not being practiced during the walk in period, we will shut the gate.

Please call the fort at 307-782-3842 or 307-870-8811 for any questions or additional information.

July

July 18– Hands-On History

Unfortunately we have cancelled this year's Hands-On History event, but we intend to try it again in 2021.

September

September 4-7– Mountain Man Rendezvous

We will know for sure whether Rendezvous will take place or not on July 11th, so keep an eye out on our social media accounts for the latest updated information.

*Events are subject to change.

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@fortbridgershs



**Improving Communities
and
Enriching Lives**



Fort Bridger's mission is to protect, preserve, and promote Fort Bridger State Historic Site while providing educational and interpretive opportunities for the citizens of Wyoming and visitors from around the nation and the world.



Become a Member

Become a Fort Bridger Historical Association or
Fort Bridger Rendezvous Association member today!



Fort Bridger Historical Association Mission:

The Fort Bridger Historical Association is a non-profit organization whose function is to promote, support, and preserve the Fort Bridger State Historic Site.

Yearly membership is \$50 and includes a membership in the Wyoming State Historical Society.

For more information or to join call 307-782-3842 or e-mail FBHA1843@gmail.com

Fort Bridger Rendezvous Association Mis-

The Fort Bridger Rendezvous Association is a non-profit organization to promote, educate, and re-live the history, culture and life ways of the Fur Trade Era of the American West 1790-1840.

Yearly membership is \$20.

For more information or to join visit fortbridgerrendezvous.net, call 801-635-4038, or e-mail FBRAINCA@hotmail.com